

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )	ORDER GRANTING
MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS FOR )	INTERVENTION
APPROVAL TO EXPAND ITS CERTIFICATE OF )	
AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE )	TC05-161
SERVICE IN THE WOLSEY EXCHANGE OF )	
THE SERVICE TERRITORY OF SANTEL )	
COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE )	

On August 26, 2005, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application from Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent) for approval to expand its certificate of authority to provide local exchange service in the Wolsey Exchange of the service territory of Santel Communications Cooperative.

On September 1, 2005, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 16, 2005, to interested individuals and entities. The South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) filed to intervene on September 16, 2005. At a regularly scheduled meeting of September 27, 2005, the Commission granted intervention to SDTA. On October 6, 2005, the Commission received a late filed Petition to Intervene from Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. (Santel).

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.05.

At a regularly scheduled meeting of November 1, 2005, the Commission considered this matter. Midcontinent stated through its attorney that it did not object to the intervention. The Commission found that the late filed Petition to Intervene demonstrated good cause to grant intervention. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the late filed Petition to Intervene of Santel is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of November, 2005.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Melanie Kolbe</u>
Date: <u>11/7/05</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Robert K. Sahr  
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson  
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner